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Oral History Interview: Sid Hatfield

Sid Hatfield

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ORAL HISTORY

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DATE 3-11-85

Sid Hatfield
(Signature - Interviewee)

Box 177
(Address)

Gilbert, WV 25621

DATE 3-11-85

Douglas Adams
(Signature - Witness)

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: SID HATFIELD

INTERVIEWER: UNKNOWN

DATE OF INTERVIEW: MARCH 11, 1985

SUBJECT: BOOTLEGGING

SID: Yes.

INT: Did they come real close to it and not even know they were near it?

SID: Yes, uh-huh.

INT: Okay. What was the opinion of the people of your uncle? Did they think he was bad, or was it just something that everybody did?

SID: Something that everybody had to do at that time to make a living for their family. (INT: For the family?) Right.

INT: Okay. So nobody felt bad about bootlegging at all?

SID: Not back then, no, ma'am.

INT: Can you remember when the 18th amendment was passed, the dry law? Can you remember when that was passed?

SID: Uh....I don't recall.

INT: Do you remember when the law went into effect, do you remember the people's opinion of it?

SID: Uh...some criticized, and some thought a lot of it.

INT: But there wasn't much...no big deal over it?

SID: No, uh-huh.

INT: Do you remember when it was repealed?

SID: Uh...I sure don't, I can't recall.

[tape interruptions-audio missing-blank]

INTERVIEW WITH SID HATFIELD (INT: INTERVIEWER UNKNOWN) 3/11/85

SID: . . . December the 2nd, 19 and 22.

INT: Okay. Were you involved in bootlegging or did you know what it was?

SID: I just knew what it was.

INT: Okay. How old were you when you knew of this?

SID: Oh, approximately six or seven years old.

INT: Okay, how long did this go on, that you knew of?

SID: About a year.

INT: About a year? Okay, how did they make it?

SID: The old time way in the drum with copper tubing running through it.

INT: Okay. Who was it that made it?

SID: My uncle.

INT: Your uncle? Okay, how did they hide it? How did they keep it from the law?

SID: They, first they built a what you might call a rock house round, and then they cut brush and so forth and put on top of it, so it would look like a rock wall.

INT: And they hid it in that?

SID: Uh-huh.

INT: Okay. Did they ever get caught by the federal agents or the police or anything?

SID: No, ma'am.

INT: Did they ever come close?

SID: Uh, yes.

INT: By the federal agents?

SID HATFIELD
March 11, 1985
West Virginia History

Mr. Hatfield talks very briefly about his family's involvement in bootlegging in the 1920s and '30s, how the feds came close to catching them at times but never did. He talks about how liquor was made and stored, and briefly of "rock house round".



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